



The Aruban Jewish Community welcomes in the New Year

As young Leo Berlinski blew the shofar the congregation of Temple Beth Israel joined together in celebrating Erev Rosh Hashanah, the eve of the Jewish New Year 5066. This begins a ten-day period of self-reflection, that will culminate with Yom Kippur on October 13, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, The Day of Atonement. The blowing of the shofar has varying significance, the lament for sons lost in battle, and the request for the Lord's compassion.

As Rosh Hashanah is a day of festivities and joyful activities, an ancient celebration of the harvest and the blessings of a generous Lord; so Yom Kippur is a day to ask the Lord for forgiveness for one's sins, to fast by taking neither food nor drink, and to spend the day in prayer.

Under the spiritual guidance of Rabbi Marcelo Bater, temple members and island visitors enjoyed an ample buffet of traditional dishes provided by the Henriquez family and members of the congregation. Favorite foods such as Gefilte Fish and potato latkes graced the menu, a special treat this time of the year. A blessing was said over the traditional challah and sweetened wine, and the greeting of "L'Shanah Tovah" was offered over and over from one friend to another. The Aruban Jewish Community is small, but all enjoy such special occasions to join their friends in celebration their heritage.

A very happy and healthy New Year to the entire island from the local Jewish community!